



03-11-04

2661

Filed Via Express Mail

Rec. No.: EV 332278448US

On: March 10, 2004

By

Eric L. Maldonado

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an  
enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No.50-1290.

Attorney Docket No. FUSA 18.248 (100807-16889)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Akira SHIMAMURA, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/766,001  
Filed: January 19, 2001  
Title: INTERFACE APPARATUS  
Examiner: Douglas W. Olms  
Art Unit: 2661  
Con. No.: 7937

**RECEIVED**

MAR 12 2004

Technology Center 2600

March 10, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the documents listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of a European Search Report dated February 19, 2004 from the corresponding European Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the European Search Report.

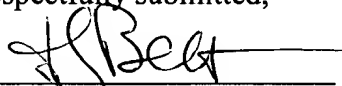
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

**Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.**

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Bean  
Reg. No. 44,528

**CUSTOMER NO.: 026304**  
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN  
575 Madison Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022-2585  
(Tel) 212-940-8800  
Docket No.: FUSA 18.248(100807-16889)